



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

1700 North Smith Street, Suite A, Hebbbronville, Texas 78361

Phone: (361) 527-3253, Ext. 4 • Fax: (361) 527-5547 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: January 24, 2006

Release Number TX 122.06

Contact Name: Yvonne Garza

Telephone Number: (361) 527-3253, Ext. 4

Email: Yvonne.Garza@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING ASSISTS IN SELF-HELP HOUSING

WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS, January 24, 2006-- USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced that La Gloria Development Corporation received a \$147,699 grant through the Housing Programs, Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing.

La Gloria Development Corporation is a non-profit corporation with a history of providing housing assistance to very-low income families in Webb County. While La Gloria will service the entire county of Webb, special emphasis will be given to provide housing to the very-low income in colonias that are platted, have approved water and either have approved sewer or lots large enough to accommodate a septic system.

"We are very pleased to be able to award this self-help grant," said Daniel. "The funds will be used to assist a total of 18 families, located in Webb County, Texas, to build their homes through the Self-Help Housing method."

USDA Rural Development makes grants to eligible nonprofit or public organizations to assist low income families who wish to work together to build their own homes. Grant money is used to pay for technical assistance the families may need in constructing the home with their own resources. The savings from the reduction in labor costs, allows otherwise ineligible families to own their homes. Families participating in a mutual self-help project perform approximately 65% of the construction labor on each other's homes.

There are a number of other housing programs available to rural residents including direct and guaranteed housing loans and home repair loans and grants. Single Family Housing loans are available depending on repayment ability and the location of the home or building site. The direct loans are designed to provide low-income families with financing to build, purchase, or repair homes that meet local codes and provide adequate affordable housing. Funds may also be used to modernize or repair a home already owned by an applicant. Special financing is also available for persons 62 years of age or older to repair their homes.

For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Hebbbronville Local Office at (361) 527-3253, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).